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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY.'S DOCKET: OGURA=1

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|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| In re Application of: |) | Art Unit: 3723 |
| |) | |
| Hiroshi OGURA et al |) | Examiner: A. J. Grant |
| |) | |
| Appln. No.: 09/878,265 |) | Washington, D.C. |
| |) | |
| Date Filed: June 12, 2001 |) | Confirmation No.: 2983 |
| |) | |
| For: METHOD OF MACHINING GLASS |) | May 1, 2003 |
| SUBSTRATE AND METHOD OF |) | |
| FABRICATING... |) | |

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

Applicants are in receipt of an Office Action mailed April 9, 2003, entirely in the nature of a restriction requirement.

Applicants have claimed priority from the corresponding application filed in Japan on June 12, 2000, and have filed a certified copy of the Japanese priority application. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the PTO to acknowledge receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119.

Restriction has been required among what the PTO deems to be five (5) patentably distinct inventions as outlined at the top of page 2 of the Official Action. In

reply thereto, and as applicants must in any event make an election, applicants hereby provisionally and respectfully elect Group I, presently indicated as containing claims 1-12, with traverse and without prejudice.

What is most strenuously traversed is the requirement as between Groups I and Groups II. **The Office Action gives no reason why these groups are distinct and gives no reason why they are separately classified.** This restriction makes no sense to applicants, and it is requested to applicants, and it is requested that such restriction be withdrawn and claims 1-18 be examined in this application.

As regards Group III, claim 19 calls for an apparatus which very broadly can carry out the method of claim 1. Under these circumstances Group III should be examined with Groups I and II (Group I modified to incorporate Group II, as should be done) under the provisions of the second paragraph of MPEP 803, as it would not constitute a "serious burden to examine Group III along with Group I.

Exactly the same commentary applies to Groups IV and V which again are based substantially entirely on claim 1. The second paragraph of MPEP 803 **requires** examination of an entire application, even though the restriction requirement is correct, if it would not constitute a serious burden to search and examine such subject matter. As the claims from Groups

III through V are based on claim 1, any complete examination of claim 1 must involve a search of the areas of Groups III-V, and therefore a complete examination of the present application would not constitute a serious burden.

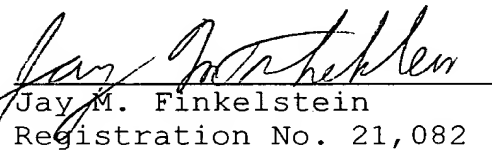
Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination on the merits of all the claims, or at the very least a restructuring of the restriction to include claims 13-18 as part of elected Group I whereby claims 1-18 will be examined.

Applicants respectfully await a first examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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